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DECEMBER 1965



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## Ourselves

The TOC H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can begin with any issue and costs only 12s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 10s. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen.

Forty-third year



of Publication

# TOC H JOURNAL

*Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view  
and are not necessarily those of the Movement*

**DECEMBER 1965**

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**COVER PICTURE: WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS INN?**  
The Toc H Holy Land Pilgrimage Party in the yard of the "Good Samaritan Inn", half-way down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

**A Merry Christmas to all our Readers**

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## INTO THE POOL

HERE WE ARE, in what seems no time at all, at the end of Jubilee Year, and in this December month we celebrate the true fiftieth birthday of Toc H and the eightieth birthday of

**Happy Birthday!** TUBBY, our Founder Padre. So much has been said this year, in speech and sermon,

appropriate to our Jubilee, that nothing

more needs saying now, but to Tubby we send our affectionate congratulations. The ceaseless energy with which he drove himself round the clock and round the world seemed, even forty years ago, to guarantee his early demise. The fact that he is still at it to-day is a constant astonishment, a source of envy and admiration. We are delighted to publish in this issue some verses by one of our foremost English poets, EDMUND BLUNDEN, in honour of our two most happy birthdays.

THERE HAVE BEEN many special Toc H publications during Jubilee Year, some issuing from Headquarters and others the product of local enthusiasm and initiative on the part of

**Jubilant Publications** Branches, Districts and Areas. The standard has been high and it would be hard to choose between them, but admiration compels us to make mention of the special Jubilee issue of *The Lamp* of Toc H India. This forty-eight page survey of the present Indian Branches gives a fine picture of their service amongst the poor and the afflicted and conveys something of the fellowship the Branches sustain. There are numerous illustrations, many of which are new to this department's covetous eyes. Warm congratulations to Lt. Col. 'SAM' RASALAM, the Editor, and all his contributors.

THE CHIEF SCOUT, speaking at Baden Powell House during our National Jubilee Week, asked Toc H to find more men willing to train as Scouters and thus strengthen the links

**Toc H and Scouting** between the two Movements. Following this up, the Warwickshire Senior Scouters, who hold an annual training week-end at

Dor Knap, have invited Bob Knight to the next one on February 25-27, 1966, and are reserving four additional places. Will Toc H members who are Scouters in Senior Troops, or who would like to know what would be involved, please write to Padre Bob Knight at Headquarters.

IT WAS REPORTED at the Central Council that an appeal for a grant had been made to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign to cover the needs of the Etembeni agricultural project over

**Going it Alone** and above those to be met by Toc H. We regret that they have refused any help on

the grounds that South Africa has sufficient resources of its own! Members will of course know that the South African Government already gives considerable financial help to the Botha's Hill Settlement in respect of the educational and medical side of the work.

OCCASIONALLY WE HAVE been glad to salute the progress of Wadhurst Toc H Football Club, whose senior and junior teams have earned high repute in East Sussex for good foot-

**Luxury Coach!** ball and, what is more, good sportsmanship. Now we hear that JOHN HOLLAND, a former

Arsenal professional footballer, has become the Club coach, and with expert tuition such as this, they should be in for a great season. JOHN HOLLAND'S fourteen-year-old son, RICHARD, has already played as winger in the senior side. Last season the Minors' team was awarded the Sportsmanship Cup in both the competitions in which it played.

AT THE TIME of the Scottish Jubilee celebrations, in June the *Stirling Journal* carried a generous editorial tribute to the work of Toc H. Its reference to the fact that something

**Long Distance Relay** founded on wartime camaraderie had evolved into a world-wide expression of practical Christianity was picked up and re-published by the *Christian Science Monitor* of Boston, U.S.A. which in its turn caught the attention of an editor in Japan. This resulted in a request for permission to re-publish the editorial in both Japanese and English in the *Study of Current English* which has a monthly circulation of 30,000 among Japanese students of English. Stirling work!

# Toc H to the Holy Land

JOHN CALLE

OVER THE YEARS many Toc H parties have set off on pilgrimage, some to Oberammergau, some to Iona, and in their thousands to Poperinge. In this Jubilee Year of new horizons some twenty-five of us, men and women from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and New Zealand, set off for a fortnight on the first Toc H pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Victoria Coach Station at nine-thirty on an October night is not the most uplifting starting point for a missionary journey, and our coach trip to Gatwick Airport was overshadowed by rumours of fog and an enforced night's sojourn in a Brighton hotel. But the fog was not apparent and we took off at one a.m. along with some fifty pilgrims who made up two other parties alongside our own. One hour later our attempts to doze away the night were shattered by an announcement that, due to a small technical defect, we were to jettison our heavy load of fuel and return to Gatwick, so, far too soon for our liking, we were back on English soil: from anticipation to anticlimax! An inspection indicated some hours' delay and so, at three-thirty a.m., we were once again in coaches, rolling along Brighton front in quest of a few hours' rest in the Grand Hotel. We were still blithe, but bleary.

*God pardon us, nor harden us,  
We did not see so clear,  
The night we went to Tel Aviv  
By way of Brighton Pier.\**

Seven short hours later we were back in the airport lounge where we waited, the prisoners of hope, for our second take-off. This time we really were away, and for consolation that afternoon we saw the whole of the sunlit northern Alps parading past. By dusk we were over

\* With grateful acknowledgments to G. K. Chesterton.

Greece, with a dramatic electrical storm to the south, maybe laid on for our especial entertainment by the gods of Olympus, and finally, in the late evening, we landed at Tel Aviv.

A three-hour coach journey by moonlight brought us to Tiberias and we awoke late the next morning to see its sun-drenched town below us, and the Lake of Galilee cupped in the hollow of the wrinkled hills.

To describe all that poured into our experiences of the next days would be impossible, short of writing a whole book. Each day we drove somewhere in our coach, beginning at Capernaum, with the ruins of the synagogue and the small bay which appears the perfect little amphitheatre for our Lord to preach in, with a boat for pulpit. We saw other traditional sites and from the Mount of the Beatitudes (in fact only a little spur on the hillside) we had a truly beatific view of the whole length of Lake Galilee spreading away to the south.

The next day we were walking through the little lanes of the village of Cana which looked as if it had not changed one whit since that most famous of all marriage feasts. From there to Nazareth, where we mingled with a jostling crowd of Jews, Arabs and pilgrims from all over the world. That afternoon we were driven up to the summit of Mount Tabor, traditional site of the Transfiguration, and all around us were places whose legendary names now became realities: Nain, Endor, Jezreel, Megiddo, Gilboa, Hermon, Samaria—we could see them all. We were surprised to find how compact the Holy Land is, though doubtless the winding roads up and down the ubiquitous hills made the distances great enough for the hot and dusty footsloggers of ancient times.

The word ‘traditional’ was used a good deal during our travels, without any overtones of cynicism. Some of the traditional sites have been preserved from the fourth century by the Byzantine Church, and even in places where Latin and Orthodox had different locations it mattered little. That these events happened, and that they happened

on these hillsides, was the great thing. What a lot we owe to the Byzantines and the Roman Church (especially the Franciscans) for preserving so much.

During the remainder of our six days based on Tiberias we travelled through the mountainous Upper Galilee until we reached the Mediterranean at Nahariya, where we bathed before turning south to the astonishing massive Crusader city of Acre, and on to modern Haifa and Mount Carmel. On the Sunday morning we had our celebration of Holy Communion in the little Y.M.C.A. chapel all by itself on the Galilee shore. The east end was just plain glass through which, across the water, we could see Capernaum and the hillside where He once fed five thousand.

On another day a launch took us across the lake to the Gadarene shore where the famous Jewish *kibbutz* of Ein Gev is cultivated in green fertility right under the gaze of Syrian border posts. Indeed it seemed strange and sad each night to look across the lake to the far side. Along the shore were the twinkling patches of light from the *kibbutz* settlements and on the crest of the hills the twinkling lights of Syrian villages. Between the skyline and the shore stretched a black band of darkness and enmity.

The way in which the new Israel is being reclaimed from the wilderness and the barren hills is most impressive. Jews gathered from all parts of the world are winning the struggle against nature. Besides the typically dark semitic type there are Jews with blue eyes and snub noses, and hair of every colour, blond, brown, ginger, as well as black. There was a pride and an alertness about them, men and women ready at a moment's notice to spring to arms in defence of what to them was a sacred mission.

On our last evening in Galilee we took Light on the verandah of our hotel, with the whole lake, lit up by the moon, below us. Next morning we set south across the Plain of Jezreel, past Megiddo which guards the Valley of Armageddon, where countless battles have been fought



Early morning Communion in the Y.M.C.A. Chapel on the shore of  
Lake Galilee

ever since history began. By noon we were in the impressive ruins of Caesarea, the scene of St. Paul's imprisonment, and from where he embarked, an ambassador in chains, for Rome. Here too St. Peter baptised the first Gentiles into the Christian Church. On then to modern Tel Aviv, with ancient Joppa alongside, and there we turned inland and climbed through the wooded hills to Jerusalem.

Approaching Jerusalem from the west has little of the drama and exaltation that the journey there from Jericho affords. To begin with one sees only the hotels and the new Jewish business quarter. We spent but one night on the Jewish side, visiting Ein Karem, the little village where John the Baptist was born, and Mount Zion, just outside the old City wall, where are the traditional sites of the Last Supper and the tomb of King David. It was the week of the Feast of the Tabernacles and our pilgrims rubbed shoulders with a stream of Jews of all ages, making their

way up to King David's Tomb which lies only a few yards on the Israeli side of the cease-fire line. The whole of the old walled City is in Arab hands. We saw some of the Dead Sea Scrolls, wonderfully preserved in the Shrine of the Book, a newly built architectural masterpiece in the Hebrew University.

*Jeru-salem*, which means the City of Peace. Alas, that is no more true to-day than it has been in many other epochs. The brooding menace we had rather expected was not there, no belt of devastation, no crack of snipers' bullets. But there was a feeling of sad finality when Gideon, our Jewish guide, and Joab, our driver, said goodbye to us at the Mandelbaum Gate and we crossed the fifty yards of no-man's land into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Once over we could not go back.

If events in Israel seemed compressed they soon appeared spacious days in comparison with the next seven! From our hotel on the very summit of the Mount of Olives the Holy City of Old Jerusalem spread below us across the Valley of Kidron. Each morning the sun behind us struck its ancient walls, with the jumble of stone buildings pressed together within them, and one realised why it has always been called the Golden City. Only in the old Temple Area was there any visible space, where ant-like figures could be seen moving across the vast pavement towards the Dome of the Rock Mosque which stands squat and uncompromising in the centre.

On our first morning we went through the Damascus Gate and shuffled past the bedlam of little shops all along the Souk as far as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We felt that if we could survive that we could survive anything! We had heard that in the Holy Places themselves it was not unusual to find screaming, even squabbling crowds. To our surprise here at the Holy Sepulchre, as elsewhere, there was a reverence and quiet that compares favourably with our English cathedrals in the tourist season. And the commercialism generally was only such as could be kept well in place.



Whole party on the Mount of Olives Hotel roof. Old City and Dome of the Rock beyond.

To chronicle all that followed would be like copying out half the New Testament. Jerusalem is all hills and steps, and the toughest members of our party visited more places than the rest of us. The Via Dolorosa and the Stations of the Cross, Gethsemane, the Pool of Siloam, the Church of St. Peter Gallicante, the site of the Ascension, were just some of the places we visited. On the Sunday evening some of us made the Maundy Thursday walk through a strangely quiet City and on down to Gethsemane. Another day we went into the Temple Area and saw the fabulously decorated interior of the Dome of the Rock, with the rock itself, the top of Mount Moriah, where Abraham is said to have prepared to sacrifice Isaac. Outside the Temple we saw the Wailing Wall, where Jews may no longer come to wail over their lost inheritance.

We journeyed outside Jerusalem itself. We went north into Samaria, past Bethel and Shiloh, and at Sychar we drank the cool water drawn for us from Jacob's Well. We

thought of Our Lord's conversation there with the Samaritan woman and later we visited the Synagogue of the scarce four hundred Samaritans who survive to the present time.

We travelled south to Bethlehem (some of us did it twice) and visited the Church of the Nativity and the Shepherds' Fields, where a lovely Franciscan church marks the place where the angels brought their tidings of great joy to the shepherds. Some of us went on to Hebron, Abraham's country. We took the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, stopping at Bethany, home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, then on through the maze of barren hills that flatten out in the Jordan Valley. Half way down we stopped at the lonely police post which was the Inn of the Good Samaritan. We saw ancient Jericho and the traditional site of Christ's baptism; one or two went to see the caves of Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, and we bathed and paddled in the Dead Sea. One morning we travelled to Emmaus, where St. Luke's account comes wonderfully to life, but we could not follow the road that the two disciples and the Stranger took, for that now lies through no-man's land.

There were other optional excursions; a half-day to the amazing Roman ruins of Jerash, and a hardy party made the long day trip through the desert to Petra, that "rose red city, half as old as time", whence they returned petrified with excitement.

It is a tough country and no wonder it has bred a people of tough character, willing to come to terms with eternal realities. Their love for the soil, their struggle to tame it, goes on to-day much as it did five thousand years ago. On the Jordan side it is sad to see in places like Jericho, Nablus and Bethlehem huge settlements of tens of thousands of Arab refugees from the Israeli side. Until something more is done to re-settle them there can be no peace in the land.

The reader may gather that we did not idle away our days, and only half of what we did has been told! One cannot hope to describe that which is quite indescribable.

The question is, what has it done to us? Some perhaps may expect us to come home transfigured; others, disillusioned. Neither of these things happened. We were certainly not disillusioned: some of our mental pictures, maybe, have had to be re-arranged, and much will now appear in different perspective. None of us gave sign of being transfigured, but that we have in many ways been transformed is already true and will become still more and more evident within us as the months and years go by. Certainly we shall read our Bibles with altogether deeper enjoyment and insight than ever before. Our visits to places were of necessity so compressed that there was little time for quiet absorption. Perhaps the full absorption will come as we re-read the old stories and fill in the pictures for ourselves from a great catalogue of memories.

By the end of our two weeks (surely it was two months!) we were a very united party, despite all the testing of constant travelling and frequent heat. The spirit of Happy Families was enriched by the ministrations of Miss Page the Book-keeper and Mr. Bagster the Baggage Chief, and at night we enjoyed the sessions we had, jam-packed into someone or other's bedroom, as we tried to relate what we had seen to the Bible narrative. On our last evening in Jerusalem we again took Light, joined by our fellow pilgrimage party, and all our thoughts and thanksgivings were for Christ, our Great Elder Brother. Next morning at daybreak we were on the road to Amman, and thence, with a stop at Damascus, on the long flight back home.

I hope that in the winter months ahead our folk, scattered up and down the country, will be telling their story and showing their films and photographs to men's and women's Branches. Church Travel Club, who initiated this tour for us, under the auspices of Messrs. Orientours, stated in their leaflet that it would be "the journey of a lifetime". All twenty-five of us would agree that it was just that: we might even say that it was a lifetime of a journey.

# *Freedom of Poperinge*

[These few stanzas refer to the "Jubileum Toc H" at Poperinge, June 19-20, 1965. The King of the Belgians and his subjects associated with the welcome given to a company of old and young people from Great Britain. Such frank and active hospitality could hardly have been surpassed anywhere. The "Te Deum" service at St. Bertin's Church on June 20 can hardly be overpraised, the Bishop of Bruges profoundly voicing the honours of Tubby Clayton, and all the church choirs of Poperinge uniting in the musical laudations. E.B.]

*Shall we not also join the friends  
Of Clayton (Rev. of Reverends)  
And see how far his sway extends ?*

*For there are Doings : Jubilee  
Of what this Padre longed to see  
In old War One grow like a tree*

*Out of the fearful crash of fates,  
—The grim gun-quarrel at the gates  
Of gentlest towns : and now those hates*

*Have sunk from sight. Here, here we stare  
Across the old loved perilous square,  
And (eighty) Dr. Clayton's there.*

*Poperinge and Ieper both acclaim  
Clayton and all who with him came,  
And feast us in the halls of fame.*

*Behold the man; he robed is set  
In great St. Bertin's grandeur yet,  
And Church with Church for him has met.*

EDMUND BLUNDEN



## MULTUM IN PARVO

THE UPPER ROOM at Talbot House, Poperinge, will be the scene of one observance of the Jubilee Vigil on December 11-12, kept by a party led by CYRIL CATTELL. Another party will be at Dor Knap, under the leadership of GEORGE LEE.

THE VIGIL BOOKLET, giving the theme for each of the twenty-four hours, is available at 1s., post free, for individual as well as corporate use.

CENTRAL COUNCILLORS are asked to send (a) nominations of candidates for the Central Executive, and (b) notices of motion for discussion by the Council on April 30, by February 28.

B.A.O.R.—BILL GIBB and ANNE VIDLER have now left the Services Clubs staff after many years of valued service, during which their appointments included Commissioner and Warden respectively.

THE REV. JOHN LARTER, Oxford & Thames Valley Area Padre for the past three years, has left the staff and has been instituted as Rector of Middleton Stoney with Bucknell, Oxfordshire. John will continue as one of the three Honorary District Padres for the Area.

TOC H JUBILEE EXHIBITION.—The Jubilee Exhibition was on view in the Royal Exchange, London, for two weeks from November 15, and will be in the Exhibition Hall of Charing Cross Underground Station for the period January 10-29.

TALBOT HOUSE, POPERINGE.—The Annual Meeting of the Talbot House Association in October concluded with a Guest-night which was supported by more than eighty local friends. It provided a valuable opportunity for thanking them for their help in organising the successful Jubilee Week-end in June.

## **TAKING A HOLIDAY IN '66 ?**

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# **Summer School 1965**

**JOHN JONES**

**Area Padre, North Wales**

**T**OWARDS THE END of the 1914—1918 war a course of lectures on educational and social problems was held in the Old House to prepare the minds of those interested for the kind of citizenship which would be required of them back in the old country after demobilisation. Something parallel to this has taken place in Jubilee Year at Bangor in North Wales.

With the whole-hearted co-operation of the Warden and his wife, the Rev. Glyndwr and Mrs. Williams, we were able to use the Church Hostel for Students from July 16 to 23. Lectures were planned to deal with the basic issues of our contemporary world and free time was allowed every afternoon to enjoy some of the notable scenes of Snowdonia. Even so only seventeen of us became residents of the School; but this was the only disappointment. Attendance at the lectures never fell below twenty and sometimes reached forty or more.

In planning this event as part of Jubilee Year we were not trying to demonstrate any particular theory about Toc H but simply trying to make room for some honest and searching consideration of the forces affecting and shaping the society in which Toc H must do its work. With some experience of Staff Conferences in mind we had tentatively considered a possible list of men as lecturers, already notable as experts in various fields of study, but further consideration led us straight to the right man. Why go outside the Movement when the man we needed was already in our midst?

And so, with Iain Fraser's marvellous co-operation, we were able to plan and carry through a simple scheme of lectures on "Our Contemporary World" under the following headings: (a) An Introduction and Survey; (b) The Scientific Revolution; (c) The Ideological Challenge; (d) Problems of Urbanisation; (e) The Sources of Renewal. This will seem direct and straightforward but such a bare outline can give no conception of the immense preparation and qualities of heart and mind which made the lectures a most challenging, living, and creative experience. Visitors from some of the North Wales Colleges who came to the first lecture curious and hesitant stayed to the end of the course, putting other things aside every morning to do so. One of them even shared in the B.B.C. Welsh Home Service broadcast simply to acknowledge his own indebtedness to the lecturer and discussions. That the experience should begin and end with our modest week seems ridiculous and I am happy that Toc H is hoping to produce a small book based on Iain's great work which will provide a valuable course for study and discussion at Branch level.

On Sunday July 18, with the North Wales Area which came to Bangor in force, we attended a Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in the Cathedral. The sermon was preached by Hugh Rees, Vicar of Colwyn Bay and Canon of St. Asaph. Hugh gave of his best and stirred his listeners with an address founded, with thanksgiving, on his personal

experience of Toc H from the early days. In the evening Mr. Eames, Warden of Neuodd Reichal, described a recent journey he and a party of educational specialists had made to Russia.

Our evening lectures were consistently on the highest level. Emlyn Sherrington gave us a most vivid account of the recent history and social context of the work of the Churches in Wales. Johnnie MacMillan shook our complacency about Toc H itself under the judgement of the challenge of Christian community, and Brian Podmore, with fascinating evidences, led us to the deeper insights of modern literature.

The full worthwhileness of the School cannot be told without mentioning the marvellous spirit of unity and comradeship which grew among us during the week. Much of this was due to the excellent chairmanship of Jack Shaw and the original and understanding work of the chaplain to the Conference, the Rev. Basil Jones, of Sandiway, Cheshire.

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## Elder Brethren

'With proud thanksgiving . . .'

ALLEN.—On September 13, Pastor CHARLES ALLEN, aged 71, a former member of Donnington Branch. Elected 9.3.'48.

BILLINGS.—On September 12, PAUL MARTIN BILLINGS, aged 71, a member of Whitfield & Guston Branch. Elected 27.11.'30.

BRISTOW.—On October 6, DUNCAN BRISTOW, D.C.M., aged 73, a member of Alloa Branch. Elected 24.7.'41.

CARTWRIGHT.—On October 12.—ALEXANDER JACK CARTWRIGHT, aged 73, a member of Canterbury Branch. Elected 19.10.'62.

COOPER.—On September 3, ALFRED WILLIAM COOPER, aged 72, a member of Peterborough Branch. Elected 5.11.'38.

DAVIS.—On September 22, WILLIAM DAVIS, aged 78, a member of East Leake Branch. Elected 21.8.'64.

**DAY.**—On August 23, LUTHER GEORGE DAY, M.M., a founder member of Shanghai Branch. Elected 25.7.'33.

**EASTO.**—October 13, ALBERT ERNEST EASTO, aged 87, founder member of Eston and Brompton Branches. Elected 28.4.'26.

**FOLLOWES.**—On September 6, THOMAS VALENTINE FOLLOWES, aged 68, a member of West Wickham Branch. Elected 19.2.'65.

**GOODRIDGE.**—On September 3, HENRY SAMUEL GOODRIDGE, aged 58, a member of North Baddesley Branch. Elected 6.11.'63.

**GRANTHAM.**—On July 26, WILLIAM HILLIER GRANTHAM, aged 80, a founder member of Whitstable Branch. Elected 21.2.'27.

**GREEN.**—On October 7, DENNIS HEWITT GREEN, aged 56, a member of Higham Ferrers Branch. Elected 9.3.'65.

**GUNSTON.**—On September 21, ARTHUR GEORGE GUNSTON, a member of Lyndhurst Branch, formerly of Potters Bar Branch. Elected 17.9.'28.

**LOMAS.**—On September 23, ALEXANDER F. LOMAS, aged 69, a member of Broadway Branch. Elected 6.7.'35.

**MATHERS.**—On September 26, LORD MATHERS, K.T., P.C., aged 79, a one-time President of Toc H and member of House of Commons Toc H group. Elected 25.3.'37.

**TAYLOR.**—On September 14, PERCY WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.M., aged 75, a member of Callington Branch. Elected 2.2.'65.

**THOMSON.**—On April 15, WILLIAM THOMSON, aged 51, a member of Ayr Branch. Elected 6.2.'39.

**VICK.**—On September 21, the Rev. JOHN MARSHALL VICK, aged 53, Padre of Broadway Branch. Elected 1.7.'31.

**WILLIAMS.**—On October 11, BEECHER WILLIAMS, a member of Falmouth Branch. Elected 1.12.'27.

**WILLIAMS.**—On October 22, WILLIAM HENRY WILLIAMS, aged 68, a member of Beckley Branch. Elected 24.8.'64.

**WOODSEND.**—In October, Dr. ROBERT NOEL WOODSEND, aged 79, a member of Catterick Village Branch. Elected 14.9.'38.

**WRIGHT.**—On September 2, ARTHUR H. WRIGHT, a member of Croydon Branch. Elected 11.3.'27.

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## In Memoriam

### JOHN MARSHALL VICK

Padre John Vick, who joined Toc H in 1931, came to the Congregational Church in Broadway in 1963. During his Ministry there the ties which he strengthened between Dor Knap and the village will remain as part of his contribution to the tradition of Dor Knap.

A.G.K.

# Toc H Projects 1965

JOHN MITCHELL

**R**OBIN, AGED SEVENTEEN, made the mistake of listening when a friend said that Toc H Projects were fun. Three months later he found himself changing nappies and bottle-feeding babies. These were no ordinary babies, however, and no ordinary project: it was our first Toc H project in a home for mentally handicapped children—at Pinkney's Green, near Maidenhead. "Severely sub-normal", Robin had been told, and he learnt all that that meant. He wants to go back again.

Susan, aged eighteen, had heard of Cheshire Homes and decided that two weeks' work at White Windows, near Huddersfield, would be a worthwhile way of spending part of her holidays. Never for one minute did she imagine that within a few days of the start of the project she would be helping a lady of fifty, suffering from multiple sclerosis, into a Dodgem car, or helping Ron, aged forty and a spastic, to the top of a Helter-Skelter. Nor, for that matter, did the residents themselves dream that such things could happen—but they did. Susan wants to go back again.

Nigel, aged sixteen, volunteered to spend ten days in Poplar, East London, helping to decorate old people's flats for the Presbyterian Housing Trust. These were not slums, far from it, but needed decoration, and Nigel was quick to grasp the fact that, while prevention is not as glamorous as cure of slum conditions, it is every bit as worthwhile. In the evenings he found himself door-knocking in various parts of East London, visiting ex-mental patients on behalf of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. The one Sunday during the project was a free day, but Nigel and nine other lads spent it working on a derelict house in Stepney. As he said: "People at school think I'm nuts." Perhaps that was why he felt so much at home in Toc H. Nigel wants to go back again.



*Huddersfield Examiner*

A Project party clearing the grounds of White Windows Cheshire Home, watched by two patients.

To report adequately on the summer projects run by Toc H and the Women's Association is impossible. Statistically, thirteen projects took place:—return visits to two Cheshire Homes, two more camps at Bovey Tracey, and repeat projects at Poperinge and Sparkbrook, Birmingham. New places visited were Leeds, Balsall Heath in Birmingham, Maidenhead, Writtle in Essex, Farnham in Surrey, and Poplar. Four of the projects were mixed, four were for girls only, and the remainder were for boys. Over one hundred and fifty young people came on these projects, more than a third of whom had been before. Over forty have since joined the Toc H Volunteers.

And what of the leadership of these projects? Help was needed and it came. It came from an Area staff man, the Assistant Warden of Talbot House, Southampton, from a master at Durham School (three years after his first visit to Dor Knap as a schoolboy), from a theological student

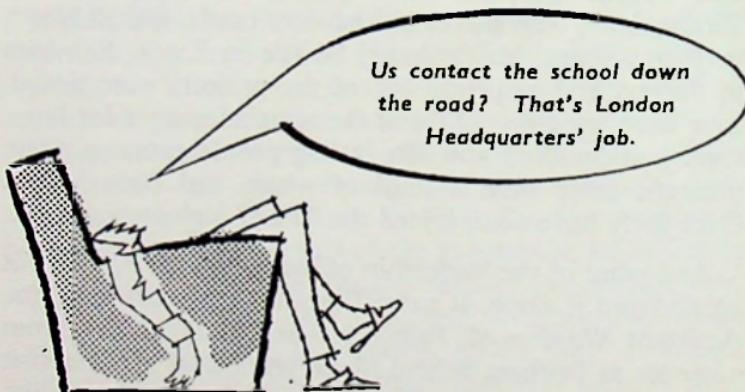
who was a Clayton Volunteer in 1964, and from two lads who had attended projects in past years.

What of the workers? The usual majority came from schools affiliated to Toc H and the Women's Association, but in addition there was a sprinkling of people from Comprehensive Schools, Secondary Modern Schools, Teacher Training Colleges, a journalist, a bank messenger, two laboratory technicians, a radio operator, two Frenchmen (one a Jesuit seminarist) and a lad from Czechoslovakia—our first volunteer from behind the Iron Curtain. It may be that Toc H has seen wider mixtures of men, but those who have been on these camps would challenge any Branch to rival the combination of humour, hilarity and hard work that they produce.

It seems patently clear that this recipe works, that this way we can produce a fellowship that is attractive to young people, but it is imperative that we ensure that in the normal pattern of Branch life these young people can find something similar. On more than one occasion this year a boy's parting comment has been: "It was great." How often would a boy say that of a Branch meeting?

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### Ernie says:



# Toc H Projects 1966

## NEW YEAR AND EASTER

JAN. 2—9. **Clarefield Court Hospital, Maidenhead.** Six boys and four girls to assist in Home for Mentally Sub-Normal Children. Work includes playing with and feeding the children, and decorating. Minimum age 17. Sleeping on the floor. Bring sleeping bags. Cost £3.

JAN. 2—9. **Balsall Heath, Birmingham.** Twenty boys to assist the Balsall Heath Association. To include decorating, work with children, transport of furniture. Varied evening activities. Minimum age 16. Sleeping on the floor. Bring sleeping bags. Cost £3.

JAN. 2—9. **Cable Street, Stepney, London.** Ten boys to help decorate derelict house for rehabilitation of compulsive drinkers. Varied evening activities. Minimum age 16. Sleeping on the floor. Bring sleeping bags. Cost £3.

APRIL 5—12. **Dor Knap, Broadway, Worcs.** Twelve boys and ten girls for a week at the Toc H Conference Centre in the Cotswolds. Includes manual work in the mornings, free afternoons and talks and discussions in the evenings. Minimum age 16. Sleeping bags not required. Cost £3 10s.

APRIL 18—25. **Poperinge, Belgium.** Ten boys for manual work at "de Lovie" Roman Catholic Home for Mentally Handicapped Boys. Visits to Ypres and other nearby places of interest, with free time as well. Minimum age 16. Sleeping in Talbot House, no sleeping bags required. Cost £14.

## Personal Accident Insurance

Branch premiums covering Members' Personal Accident fall due on January 1, 1966. The amount is 1s. 2d. per member for the year. Please ensure that this Insurance premium is sent to the Finance Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, before January 31. As this scheme is run at cost we cannot afford to send out individual reminders direct to Branches. This then is the only intimation.

K.R.R.

# Wheels on Wheels

ALF MANKELOW

EARLY LAST YEAR Tunbridge Wells District Team appointed a committee to look into ways of celebrating the forthcoming Jubilee—something more lasting than the usual 'special effort'. Various schemes were put forward, discussed and followed up, and it seemed that something for the elderly or the handicapped would be the most useful.

Meetings were held with the committee of the Abbeyfield Society, interested in housing the lonely, to consider a joint effort for a house to be bought and maintained, with a name connecting it with Toc H, but the particular property in mind was not suitable and the idea has been temporarily shelved.

In the meantime the idea of a coach for taking handicapped people out for the day or for a run in the country (Kent, the Garden of England) was being pursued. Various coach companies and the local bus company were approached about buying a partly-used coach. When the directors of the Maidstone & District Motor Services Ltd. learned why the coach was wanted they offered to donate one—a 32-seater AEC Reliance. News of this gift reached the M & D maintenance staff at their Postley Works and they offered to convert the coach for our purpose in their own time! The only item that Toc H had to pay for was an electric platform hoist at the rear to provide easy loading of wheel chairs. This takes a wheel chair with occupant and a 'chair holder' from the ground up to the coach floor and vice-versa.

The coach was stripped inside, the seats were removed and the whole of the back taken off to rebuild round the hoist. Ten seats were replaced down one side, well spaced out to give leg room, and a safety rail fitted down the other side to which ten wheel chairs could be strapped.

All this work was carried out at Maidstone and one of the co-opted members of the committee, Peter Seymour-Price, well-known to members in Australia and secretary of the Disabled Drivers' Motor Club, went to Maidstone at least once each week to oversee the work and report progress.

Meanwhile money was coming in from Branches, members and friends and when the coach was ready in May, freshly painted and with the Toc H Lamp on the front and two sides, the hoist had been paid for and a respectable sum was in the kitty for maintenance and running expenses. The goodwill shown by friends and acquaintances has been an eye-opener, even for Tunbridge Wells, where an enormous amount of goodwill for Toc H exists; the stencils of the Lamp were cut by an acquaintance of an acquaintance on the morning train (name unknown)—because he had met Toc H during the war in the Middle East.

### Garage Wanted !

One snag has been overcome—drivers. As the coach is used solely for handicapped people the committee insisted that the driver should be of PSV standard and several of the local bus drivers stepped in until we were organised on this. However we now have a permanent driver and a panel of volunteers, all of the required standard. The fly in the ointment at the moment is accommodation. Temporary standing has been found for the coach and we are now seeking covered accommodation for the few months when the coach is not likely to be much used. A local garage gives the coach a regular check-up at a 'peppercorn' fee and once we get covered accommodation for the winter we shall be happy.

The coach had its first run on May 15, taking handicapped children to Dymchurch for a week's holiday, and since then has been in fairly constant use, averaging two or three outings a week. On July 9 it returned to Maidstone for an official 'handing over' and the General Manager of

the M & D expressed his pleasure on behalf of the bus company and the maintenance staff at being able to help in the scheme initiated by the District. He hoped that the coach would run for many years and give pleasure to less fortunate people.



*Maidstone & District Motor Services, Ltd.*

The Postley Works staff of M & D see the General Manager, Mr. A. J. White, hand over the coach to 'Pit' Pitkin, Hon. Treasurer of the Coach Committee.

The coach is now a 'going concern', thanks mainly to the efforts and work of two non-members, Peter Seymour-Price and Percy Rance, who has acted as secretary to the committee, and a worthwhile one according to those who have thus had the chance of a day at the coast or a run in the country. It is available without charge to any organisation dealing with or interested in handicapped people and, being privately registered and insured, there are no geographical limits. Try us and see!

Mention must be made of the publicity given and interest shown by the local press in this effort. Both the *Kent & Sussex Courier* and the *Kent Messenger* have done us proud.



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# AROUND THE WORLD

## Progress report from Toronto

The following extracts from a letter written by Bob Mason, formerly of Mark XI, Leicester, and now in Toronto, speak for themselves. They are recommended for reading (aloud) at any slightly jaded Branch meeting. Try it yourself!

You may know that Tubby's visit in 1961 prompted a couple of the Toronto members to take on the regular weekly showing of feature films at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. We are fortunate that these films are loaned us free of charge on a Friday, and we do not return them till the Monday afternoon. Since this job was started various men in the Mark have helped and two Marksmen now handle the arrangements.

This was the total work done in the name of Toc H in Toronto till September of last year, when, through meeting a nurse at a party, one of the Marksmen made contact with the Ontario Society for Crippled Children. The Society administers a most modern Centre which comprises a 105 bed hospital; a 400 children school; a 250 children per day out-patient clinic; and has all the latest equipment for therapy. There was a register of Volunteers at the Centre of some 300 people, but they were still very short of helpers, especially for week-night activities for the hospitalised patients.

So the challenge was put to the Marksmen that they take on various activities at the Centre, involving as many outsiders as possible. Within a few weeks we had added a further twenty-five Volunteers to the force, and men and girls were going down each Sunday afternoon to help with play therapy, to visit individual children, and to take children out in cars, etc. Three months ago we began showing our movie on Saturday afternoons to those children who didn't have visitors, and this has become a much appreciated regular job. About this time we were asked if we could help with a Thursday sports programme in the gym for the eight to twelve year olds. This is now run by our group of Toc H Volunteers, and we regularly have twenty-five or more children being exercised on a Thursday evening.

We are now no longer limited to working at the Centre and at the Hospital for Sick Children as we have also a weekly Children's Programme at a Friendship Centre in one of the downtown slum parishes. Four of our members help out there, and the Mark Padre, Ray Gooderham, is the assistant in this parish. We also show the movie each Saturday for Bloorview Home for Incurable Crippled Children; help transport blind members of the Canadian Federation of the Blind; run two youth groups; and are currently starting on a visitation programme for shut-ins.

This then is the present state of Toc H in Toronto, and our list of helpers and interested persons, mainly young people, numbers over seventy. We are currently in touch with about four local churches and are arranging to meet the Padres of these churches to give them some idea of what we are and what we are trying to do. These contacts should be useful, not only in giving us ideas of service, but in furnishing us with more names of people they think might be interested. From one such contact last week has come an offer from the church youth group to work at the Centre each Saturday morning, repairing and maintaining wheelchairs, etc.

### From Central Africa

After serving on the Toc H staff in the Services Clubs in Germany, in September 1964 Robin Murphy took up a Toc H staff appointment in Central Africa. Here are extracts from a letter he wrote recently from Broken Hill, Zambia, which was visited by one of the two Jubilee Year D.E. Teams of members from the United Kingdom (See October JOURNAL).

Looking back over the month of July here an evening which will remain for ever in my memory is that on which we held the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication in Broken Hill. Both Branches of the Women's Association were present, together with our new men's group, and a good number of friends and 'notables'. We adapted the St. Paul's Cathedral form of Service slightly so as to include Light and an Act of Rededication by all members. Dennis Etheredge and Albert Stepney came from Lusaka with four members of the U.K. Team (a mere ninety miles each way!). The Service was conducted by the Presbyterian Minister—the Anglican Priest, the Methodist Minister and a layman also taking part. Men and women and an African member-to-be took the members' parts, and Murphy played the organ. The Service was followed by a Family get-together, where the U.K. Team and others had something to say.

It is not easy to sum things up after such a month as we have just experienced. The team members being such an honest-to-goodness mixture of the sort of chaps one expects to find in any Toc H Branch, it was, even so, quite a unique experience for all of us to be *living together* for a whole month.

The Matero project caught the imagination of both local men in public work in Lusaka and of national figures too. At one time or another helping us throughout the month were Africans, Europeans, Coloured folk, Indians—schoolboys and students included—and we all became literally 'colour-blind' as the white-wash brushes we were wielding spattered their contents over everybody. In the room set aside as the Toc H Jubilee Room two meetings of the new Matero Group have already been held. When taking Light, the lights are 'put out' in a different way to the usual—they are put outside the door, as we have to use a pressure lamp!

Wherever the Teams from the U.K. went in Zambia and Rhodesia they received overwhelming welcomes and created tremendous new enthusiasm . . .

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## "Leisure for Pleasure"

INTERESTING, inexpensive, informative, inspiring. All these adjectives apply to this booklet\*. Without wasting words the author adequately covers the various ways in which our increasing number of leisure hours can be used to advantage. His comments apply equally to those still in 'gainful employment' and that growing body—those who are retired. To him, voluntary service or, as he puts it, "spontaneous acts of good neighbourliness", cannot be regarded as just a grim duty to be performed but something that can be helpful and frequently enjoyable to both donor and recipient. One is reminded throughout that purposeful pleasure is no sin.

Every Toc H Branch would do well if it spent a meeting discussing this booklet. Such an occasion would not only stimulate the Jobmaster and members alike but would assist the Secretary in constructing the Branch programme. Perhaps, in spite of the pundits of earlier Toc H days, there is a place in some programmes for the expert on bee-keeping!

C.H.W.

\**Leisure for Pleasure* by David Holman, 16 pp. illustrated, 1s. 6d. Special prices for over six copies, Take Home Books Ltd., 4 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

*Specially drawn for the RNLI by Eric Fraser FSA*



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# RNLI

## Second Wind

by John Callf

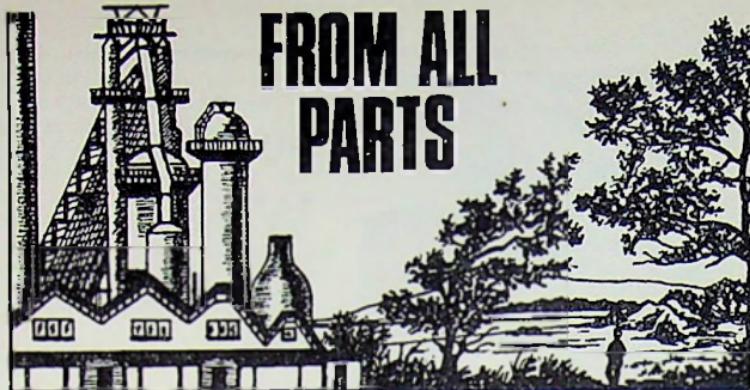
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# FROM ALL PARTS

## AREA NEWS

### EAST ANGLIA

It was characteristic of East Anglia that for the Area Jubilee Festival held in Norwich on Saturday, September 18, it should pour with rain at exactly the wrong moment in the driest area in Britain, and that in the end the strength of our fellowship and family spirit should make the Festival such a success.

In company with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Norwich, we gathered first in the beautiful church of St. Peter Mancroft for a service arranged by the Norfolk Divisional Padre, Jim Farrant, and conducted by Padre A. M. Pryde. Canon Blackburne, speaking as the son of one of Tubby's old friends, told us of the spirit which gave the Movement its early impetus.

The rain drove us to a crowded tea before moving into the Norwich Lads' Club for the Festival Evening, where we came together as one Family, with Brian Dickson (a Vice-President of Toc H, who we felt was one of us because his brother, Dr. Ian Dickson, is a former Lord Mayor of Norwich), the Deputy Lord Mayor of Norwich, the Broadland Singers (of radio and TV fame), a 'pop' group of Salvation Army young people and Light by Padre Jim Farrant, the whole presided over with friendly urbanity by Mr. R. Q. Gurney. His father, Major Quinton Gurney, was one of Tubby's fellow workers in the Old House and is still a Norfolk Area general member.

It was not spectacular, there were no TV cameras and even the local Press found little copy, but it was truly East Anglian and few Branches were unrepresented. A last significant word: Women's Association members outnumbered the men.

ALAN BROOKE



*Carmarthen Times*

Coomb Cheshire Home Branch and some of their guests  
at the Lamp presentation.

### SOUTH WALES & MONMOUTHSHIRE

On Saturday, September 25, COOMB Branch was presented with its Lamp, following a Dedication Service conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. J. Jones, at Llanyngog Parish Church, at which members from Haverfordwest, Llanllwch, Neath, Carmarthen, Swansea, Rhiwbina and Cowbridge Branches were present, with Builders from St. David's Hospital. After presenting the Lamp Padre John Jones initiated several members and gave a most inspiring talk. Most of the members of this new Branch—the first in South Wales for some time—are residents of the Coomb Cheshire Home. One of them writes: "We are delighted to have found the Family of Toc H and hope to uphold the standard it sets." The members, in spite of physical handicaps, have adopted old people at the Johnstown Home, to whom they give presents and film shows, and say they hope to "continue giving them some enjoyment".

The group of Toc H Volunteers in Cardiff is growing in number, has done several useful jobs, and recently gave up part of a week-end to decorate a room at the Dan y Bryn Cheshire Home, Radyr, Cardiff. A new group is starting at Neath and has already visited the local hospital. At the NEWPORT headquarters the men's and women's Branches held a Harvest Thanksgiving Service and the Toc H Brownies presented a Pageant. The poor Area Secretary almost lost his voice selling produce but the result was ample compensation.

GEORGE ATKINSON

## MANCHESTER

In ancient times all roads led to Rome, but on October 2 all roads led to the Metropolis of the North, otherwise Manchester. Like the subjects of Rome these new visitors spoke many dialects, and even the language of Heaven, which is Welsh. The dark streets were enriched with a variety of bright uniforms, not of the Legions, but of the brass bands of Fairey's, Foden's, and Morris Motors.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester and the Lady Mayoress brought civic recognition of our Jubilee and the good wishes of the citizens.

George Davis, after being delayed by fog, arrived to see what the goodwill of hundreds of people towards Toc H can do for the Children's Camp, for this was the purpose of the concert.

The Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir proved to be the perfect counterpart to the massed bands and delighted the packed audience with a variety of items for all tastes. Brian and Cynthia brought to the concert their charming songs in simplicity, and helped the audience to get "with it". Harry Mortimer conducted with his own unique style, and made a wonderful evening complete. Richard Roberts, the Area Chairman, and his willing supporters went home tired but happy that many children would enjoy next year a week at the sea because of Toc H and its friends.

The Jubilee Service at the Cathedral was led by the Choir, the Lessons were read by Jack Shaw and Osborn Hughes; the Marks, Districts, and Women's Association shared in the Act of Thanksgiving. The gracious hospitality of the Dean and Chapter in their Cathedral Church that symbolises the work and worship of the mills and the moors, of the busy towns and quiet villages of Lancashire, reminded us that here was the reason for Toc H, making God real to men, and helping others to find God in service for the many who need the Bread of Life.

RON HALL

## LINCOLNSHIRE

Bounded by Trent, Humber and the North Sea and threatened with isolation from the rest of Britain by Dr. Beeching and British Rail, the members of Toc H in Lincolnshire have shown their interest in the wider Family by arranging efforts during the "wet monsoon" or summer. LOUTH have held the local Flower Show for the fourteenth time and, since amalgamating with UTTERBY, have joined in running their Gymkhana, which has been a great fund raiser for more than seven years. St. John Ambulance are always present and this year, alas, their services were needed by one unlucky rider. The Scouts acted as messengers and even laid on field telephones. GRAINTHORPE too have held a show in the village hall, and concluded with a Harvest Festival Service led by George Lee, our former Area Secretary.

HUMBER District have had a successful Autumn Fayre & Bulb Sale and SUTTON ON SEA have co-operated with the local Playing Fields Association in a huge fete, continued over two Thursdays, when funds were raised for the minibus which is used to take visitors to patients in the hospital twenty miles away. On the last Sunday in August N.E. Lincs manned a "Mile of Pennies" collection on the promenade at CLEETHORPES. Here almost £40 was raised for Etembeni. Displays of pictures from the brochure let the public see why money was needed, and to answer questions such as "Who is this Mr. H. Toc?" members were available. One was Neville Watkins, Dominion Padre for New Zealand, who has been in Grimsby over a year now.

Before our peace is finally shattered by the discovery of oil under the sea at the mouth of the Humber we hope our fourth new group will have been approved. Already those at INGOLDMELLS, near Skegness, and GRANTHAM, together with our first joint unit at NORTH HYKEHAM, near Lincoln, are recognised, and the second meeting at BOSTON has been attended by fifteen men. The number of recruits to Branches shows encouraging growth this year.

BEN CHATTERTON

### NOTTS & DERBY

During the new Bank Holiday, NORTH NOTTINGHAM Branch organised an Olde Tyme Fayre and a show called "Pop in the Park". Stalls made by members of BINGHAM and NOTTINGHAM Branches were used and will be stored for the future.

Firms in Nottingham, with the City Corporation officials and Bill Harris, organised an exhibition of "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". There were old and new telephones, cycles, cigarette packets and photographs, and models of the vast change in Nottingham. On the last day of this Exhibition at the Design Centre the Lord Mayor and his Lady opened the new Toc H Centre which was dedicated by Canon Feaver of St. Mary's Church. Banners of the Branches attending made a flash of colour outside and later on inside though the door opened rather too quickly when the key was inserted by the Lord Mayor!

Our Centre continues to be used for a variety of societies which are becoming increasingly involved in its purpose. The number of Volunteers has now reached fifteen.

The NOTTINGHAM CITY Branch has purchased a chair for the Chapel of the Holy Spirit at St. Mary's Church, Nottingham, to be dedicated to the memory of Bishop Neville Talbot, for many years its Vicar. The Chapel is being partially fitted with new hassocks by members of the Women's Association in the City.

We in this Area are very proud to be associated with George Gibson of Derby, elected President of the 18,500-strong membership of the Methodists' Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association.

BERT BOWRING

## SURREY AND SUSSEX

The stories of the Worthing Exhibition, the Guildford Boys' Camp, the Ash & Ash Vale Social Services Centre, Ashley House's Jubilee project to provide a Guide Dog for a blind person, news of the Jubilee project at Hampden Park, the Deaf Boys' Camp in East Sussex, the Tolworth ambulance and the North Surrey M.S. Swimming project were all told at a most successful joint Areas week-end at Worthing, with over eighty members present.

Bob Knight, the Administrative Padre, was principal guest and speaker; we also heard from Padre Ken Oliver who was in sparkling form, and were inspired with the stories of the D.E. Team in Central Africa told by Harry Rowling, our own man on the project, and an even more recent account of Toc H in South Africa from the ever-popular and most welcome guest, Alec Churcher—home on leave.

The account of the five new units in the two Areas in the last fifteen months was a great fillip: ASHLEY HOUSE, SEAFORD, BEXHILL, ASH & ASH VALE and the latest, THE DITTONS. The latter, only just started in October after a hard month's door knocking by Tolworth members, was studied in detail with great interest, as it seems to be a real break-through in this kind of area. More of this unit anon, we hope; it's early days yet but we have our ten per cent from the two hundred people or so visited. Allan Hunt and Graeme Mills gave us a new slant on a form of corporate worship, with a six-voice conversation piece in place of a sermon.

We feel that one of the main purposes of Jubilee Year has been fulfilled by the many lessons learnt, now to be put into practice, and by the number of projects initiated during the year, to become established events in the future, giving us all the necessary pointers for our efforts in the months ahead.

RAY FABES

## WEST MIDLANDS

Preceded by the Jubilee Service in Birmingham Cathedral, in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, at which the address was given by the Bishop of Stafford, a former London Staff Padre, the highlight of the day was the fully scripted and staged show, employing audio, visual aids and other means to bring home to us the many things which make up Our Heritage.

Our attention was riveted from the beginning by a five-minute trip from London to Birmingham, and we were grateful for the opportunity of a leisurely tour of our own Area to discover the rich variety and contrast which compose it. A sheer delight, then, to meet so many folk with whom Toc H has been associated in service over the years, none more so than Doctor Sandy Turnbull, who was perhaps instrumental in introducing the needs of BELRA to 'Tubby' so many years ago. But if we were now inclined to throw out our chests, the lads and lasses of TYSELEY soon deflated them with some biting interviews with 'members', which were, perhaps, not so imaginary as we first thought.

After the quietness of Our Ceremony we met once again Danny Cannon and the Ramrods, now in their new guise as "Herbie's People". The two members that followed them also had something to shout about in illustrating Our Family, for they had both been members of the "D.E. Team" that visited Central Africa this Jubilee Year. Back home again, thanks to British Railways, to tour the Cotswold country and in the rich variety of village and town we saw something of our tremendous inheritance in this Our Country.

Realising that all our inheritance has been handed down to us by others, we could not leave without seeing Our Future as the challenge to hand on an equally rich inheritance to generations to come, and this was summed up for us in the singing of the Hymn of Light, followed by the Epilogue.

The scope of the programme underlined for all the wealth of our common inheritance, and we left the Festival with a very deep pride both in our Country and in our Movement. GEORGE LEE

### YORKSHIRE AREA

Leeds, with all its amenities, proved a wise choice as the venue for both Areas jointly to celebrate the Jubilee on September 11. As the sun broke out after days of rain, "Martha", the Women's Association mobile headquarters, bravely took her stand between the Lions in front of the Town Hall. Nearby, St. George's Church—made famous by Don Robins who opened its crypt as a refuge for homeless men—was full to capacity for the Thanksgiving Service. Ken Bloxham's message was hopeful and forthright, while the singing, as one expects in Yorkshire, was robust and inspiring.

After tea, the spacious, newly decorated Town Hall rapidly filled. As the organ pealed out its happy strains, many melodies compelled us to join our words to the tunes, and by the time the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Leeds arrived with the Mayor and Mayoress of Wakefield, Douglas Haigh, George Davis and other V.I.P's, we were in a festive mood. Only 'Tubby' was needed to complete the scene, and lo! there he was, mounting the platform steps. From then on we were at home. Opportunities for Procession of Lamps and Banners are rare, and this spectacle was very impressive, for the Women's Association brought their Lamps too. HOLME VALLEY Branch, having received their Lamp, kindled the others, the silver Plumer Lamp from York Minster being used for Light. These ceremonies, in the presence of so many witnesses, seen and unseen, have left an indelible memory.

The presentation followed of LIGHT OF MEN, written specially for the occasion. This portrayed in words, music and scene some aspects of the creative spirit of man which Toc H encourages. Nearly two hundred performers took part—massed bands, choir, speakers and organist. This splendid production was thrilling and faultless, leaving a profound impression on us all.

FRED BROOK



*Hants & Berks Gazette*

This "Campbell Toilet Bed" is the Jubilee gift from Hook Branch to Odham Hospital. The cost was raised by special efforts, plus a contribution from Reading Multiple Sclerosis Society.

## MARCHES

Shrewsbury Carnival Committee recognised the Jubilee Year of Toc H by kindly asking if they might nominate one of their Beauty Queens in the Carnival Dance competitions "Miss Toc H". This was agreed and Mrs. Jenny Watson, a pretty twenty-two-year-old housewife and daughter of a former Toc H member, was chosen as "Miss Toc H". In the final Carnival competition for the title, "Miss Shropshire", Jenny was a close runner-up.

The Area Jubilee Thanksgiving Service was held in St. Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, attended by the Administrative Padre, who gave an inspiring sermon. This was followed by the Area get-together in the nearby parish hall, with Iain Fraser as guest speaker. "Miss Toc H" honoured us with her presence and was introduced to the Family Gathering.

The BORDER District provided and manned a Toc H Rest Tent in support of the LEPRA Exhibition at the Royal National Eisteddfod at Newtown this year. The Ceremony of Light was held daily and the members of BISIOP'S CASTLE, NEWTOWN and WELSHPOOL Branches provided refreshments for their many visitors. Over £22 was raised for LEPRA funds.

Members of this Area joined the North Western Area Jubilee Cruise and the Thanksgiving Service at Liverpool Parish Church.

CHIRK Branch brought along twelve of their friends from the Dolgern Cheshire Home and their presence aboard the "Royal Iris" created new friendships. The Manchester Area Jubilee celebrations saw the Marches again on the move when WEM Branch turned out in full force to give support to our Area Padre, the Rev. R. R. Whittington, who gave a challenging sermon in Manchester Cathedral.

The MID-SALOP District are organising a Jubilee Supper for their wives, families and friends, at Coton Hall, near Wem, the home of Viscount Hill, which contains many items of historical interest, including relics of the Battle of Waterloo.

TOM ROMANIS

### EASTERN LONDON

When BARKING Branch started a Club for the Physically Handicapped over ten years ago, although many of them had not left their homes for years the members chose for themselves the name of Happy Wanderers. This year's highlight was a visit to the London Palladium, organised by the present Club leaders (two Area General Members) in co-operation with the Branch. Thanks to the active help of the Theatre Manager and his staff all twenty-six attending (some most seriously crippled) were expeditiously conveyed from their homes to their theatre seats in good time to enjoy the show.

The Area Festival was held in Chelmsford on September 25, with about 350 people present. In the afternoon the Provost, the Very Rev. G. E. Gordon, conducted a service in the Cathedral, assisted by Padre Cliff Jones of Elm Park Branch. The Lessons were read by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex (an Area General Branch member) and Padre A. G. Smith of Chelmsford Branch, and the preacher was Padre John Durham. In the evening, at the Shire Hall, entertainment was provided by Toc H members.

When Canon J. R. Lewis, a General Member, became Rector of Downham, Essex, several fellow Branch members attended the Service of Induction and Institution, as a token of their fellowship.

ERNIE WOOD

*Don't say brown*  
—say **Hovis**

# "Promotion of District Teams"

## IV—Staff Man's Angle

GEORGE LEE

Now just WHY should the introduction of the scheme of "Promotion of District Teams" suddenly make me feel old? Perhaps it was because the immediate realisation of the potentials of the scheme indicated that, intentionally or otherwise, all the old bulwarks of excuse were being stripped away in one bold thrust. I recalled how, many years ago it seemed, I had, alongside many others, found it so simple to answer all failings by blaming 'Them'. At Branch level one blamed the District Team; at District Team one blamed the Area Executive; whilst at Executive level one had only 'Them' at Headquarters to whom one could attribute one's failings in recruitment, finance, finding new jobs, etc. 'They' were always fair game for any such pot-shot, and most of us found them handy targets.

Now, here we were being offered the chance of participating in a new experiment and at first sight the opportunities appeared too good to be true. The Area Executive was to be disbanded and replaced by a smaller Team without any authority, merely to act as a guiding, teaching or consultative body, no more. The rest was to be in the hands of the District Teams and we sensed a robe of greatness being thrust upon us. No longer must we wait for our original ideas to go backwards and forwards through the various committees, waiting for the mangled version, lacking now originality or enthusiasm, to come out at the other end so many months later. We were the new leadership, until we discovered also that we had become 'Them'. We had no-one now to fall back on, no-one else who could be blamed for our failures, no-one else to plan for us. For better or for worse it was in our hands; at first a frightening thought,

until one realised that this was just what should have been happening to us all the way along.

No longer were our actions to be controlled by the 'rubber-stamping' of some committee in some remote place. Good District Teams seemed to become even better and many of the indifferent Teams improved beyond recognition. Of course the response was not one hundred per cent, but certainly in the majority of cases District Teams seemed to come closer to their units when it came to the regranting of Branch status. It was now no mere formality but a real responsibility. Moreover the problem of the weaker units was no longer passed to the Area Guard for their attention in some distant place but had become a responsibility where it belonged, within the District. For some unaccountable reason too units seemed to begin to take the matter of selection of their men for the District Team more seriously, realising the responsibility now vested in that Team, and many Team agendas began to take on the appearance of a work programme rather than existing on Branch reports and the like to fill in the time.

### New Growth

Yes, where men applied themselves to the new responsibility offered them new growth was soon apparent. But was it really new responsibility being offered, or was it a subtle way of bringing home to members the responsibility that had always been theirs? Whatever one's views on this, the success of the experiment is beyond doubt. I agree with Doc. Mitchell, writing in the April JOURNAL, that the scheme or some variant of it is here to stay.

Yet there are still some rough corners requiring attention. The Annual General Meeting between Area Team and District Officers faces us with the difficulty of producing a gathering which is both useful and purposeful, rather than a dreary repetition of the same agenda year by year. Certainly the scheme cannot be fully successful until all District Teams realise that the Area Team is not an authoritative body, in lieu of the disbanded Area Executive. There is

still need for many District Teams to realise that the power given them is to behave as adults in an adult society, accepting full responsibility for thinking, planning and acting for the good of the whole Movement.

Certainly one has been conscious of the dependence of one upon the other; that for too long we have been concerned with pride in the machinery and method without releasing the vastly superior and deep-seated joy of the spirit. Now, under the new scheme, men began to realise that at long last they were beginning the journey from slavery to full mastery, enabling them if they so desired to make the best possible use of themselves and of their time and energy. One still has to face the fact that in some Districts men still have not risen to the challenge or given the scheme a fair trial.

### Freeing the Staff

My new-found freedom allows much more time for discussion and planning with District Teams, of training with individuals and selected groups, both inside and outside the Movement, and of searching for new opportunities and men. In this I have been greatly blessed by an H.A.C., fellow members of the Area Team, and a considerable number of District Officers who have been prepared to accept fuller responsibilities in helping to get the scheme off the ground.

Remembering the frustrations under the old system I feel that if men will only accept the freedom offered by the scheme to act out at all levels the truths of responsibility implicit in their pledge of membership they would rediscover, as so many others have done already, the real adventurous spirit of Toc H. The more responsibility one accepts the more exciting the whole business becomes. Of the future I am convinced that the wider the scheme is used, the more men will be released from mere committee work, and the more they will discover, or rediscover the sheer joy of living and serving one another. This is an offer to real men, to grown men, to men desirous of a real job of work . . . and it works!

# Journal Smalls

Small Advertisements must be received  
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